DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 115 965 95 CE 005 861

AUTHOR	Mawyer, Suzanne T.
TITLE	Five Year Follow-Up Survey of Albemarle High School Graduates. Final Report.
INSTITUTION	Albemarle County Schools, Charlottesville, Va.
SPONS AGENCY	Virginia State Dept. of Education, Richmond. Div. of Vocational Education.
REPORT NO	VT-102-364
PUB DATE	1 Aug 75
NOTE	17p.
EDRS PRICE	MF-$0.76 HC-$1.58 Plus Postage
DESCRIPTORS	General Education; *Graduate Surveys; *High School Graduates; Program Effectiveness; *Relevance (Education); Secondary Education; Student Records; Vocational Education; *Vocational Followup
IDENTIFIERS	*Virginia (Albemarle County)

ABSTRACT

A five-year followup survey of 1969 Albemarle County high school graduates was made from July 1, 1974 to July 1, 1975. Data collected regarding present job status, college attendance, and high school training were compared with high school ability level to gauge the relevance and effectiveness of high school vocational education programs. Survey results showed that the percentage of all 1969 graduates now in the work force is high. Although a relatively high percentage of general education graduates attended college, only half finished. More than half of the graduates had no high school vocational training at all, and the percentage of those with training for their present job is low. The figures also indicate that the general level student would benefit most from vocational programs, although academic students should not be discouraged from enrolling. Academic students desiring to enter management areas should, however, be encouraged to enroll in vocational programs. The survey instrument is appended. (KJ)

****
* Documents acquired by ERIC include many informal unpublished *
* materials not available from other sources. ERIC makes every effort *
* to obtain the best copy available. Nevertheless, items of marginal *
* reproducibility are often encountered and this affects the quality *
* of the microfiche and hardcopy reproductions ERIC makes available *
* via the ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS). EDRS is not *
* responsible for the quality of the original document. Reproductions *
* supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made from the original. *
****

ED115965

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

Final Report

FIVE YEAR FOLLOW-UP SURVEY OF ALBEMARLE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Conducted Under
Part C of Public Law 90-576

Suzanne T. Mawyer, Principal Investigator
Sponsored By Albemarle County Public Schools

(VT-102-364)

Division of Vocational Education
Virginia State Board of Education
Richmond, Virginia 23216

August 1, 1975

2

CE005261

PREFACE

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the following individuals for their assistance in this study.

Mr. Ben F. Hurt, Principal, Albemarle High School

Mr. Howard A. Collins, Vocational Director, Albemarle County

Mrs. Virginia Dofflemyer, Guidance Director, Albemarle High School

Mrs. Gay Loftin, Administrative Assistant, Albemarle County

Ms. Rebecca Rogers, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Ms. Rose M. Shifflett, Albemarle High School

The Class of 1969

This "Five Year Follow-Up Survey of Albemarle High School Graduates" began July 1, 1974 and was completed July 1, 1975. Survey forms were mailed to the 306 graduates before September 1, 1974. Additional forms were sent to those not responding by October 1, 1974. Many of the remaining interviews were conducted by telephone with some information secured from relatives of the graduates. The telephoning was done during the entire course of time allowed for the study.

Tabulations were begun July 1, 1975 with the final completion date set for August 1, 1975.

At the onset of the survey, the following hypotheses were made:

...The percentage of 1969 graduates with "general education" backgrounds attending college is low.

... The percentage of 1969 graduates with "general education" backgrounds entering the job market is high.

... The percentage of 1969 graduates remaining in the vocational area for which they trained is high.

... The percentage of 1969 graduates trained in vocational programs attending college is low.

... The percentage of 1969 graduates with "academic" backgrounds entering college with majors in academic subjects is low.

... The percentage of 1969 "academic" students entering the management of vocational areas is high.

The findings of the survey support some of the stated hypotheses. In several areas, however, the hypotheses remain unsubstantiated.

Of the 306 graduates, 114 responded to the survey. This represents a 37% response. Of the 114, 85 or 74.5% attended college or other school beyond the high school level. Twenty-nine graduates or 25.5% went directly into the work force after high school graduation. This split in response indicates somewhat of a "success bias" in that it is highly unrealistic to believe that three-fourths of any graduating class actually attends college. It is felt that college graduates and those having attended schools of higher learning tend to respond more readily to such written surveys, thus presenting the problem of success bias in the results.

Specific findings and other information should be noted in the following sections.

2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Many vocational programs fight a constant "battle" between business and administration. Some administrators feel that vocational education is terminal education designed for the potential drop-out, the difficult to motivate, or the "problem student". Granted, especially designed vocational programs are serving such students well. But, the regular vocational programs are not equipped to handle the needs of such students.

Business, on the other hand, expects management level trainees - the college bound student who will return to the business after graduation from college, or the sharp, effectively motivated student who will stay on after high school and grow with the firm.

With this difference of philosophy, programs tend to weaken from all viewpoints. With the many jobs of the vocational education teacher-coordinators, adequate time is not available to thoroughly counsel and educate the entire student body. This aspect of recruiting and guidance must be left in the hands of others. Therefore, many students leave high school untrained for a specific occupation.

As an example, it is said that six out of ten people eventually work in some phase of marketing or distribution. Obviously, this figure does not mean that the Distributive Education program should train 60% of all high school graduates. But, this program should train all students who leave high school and go directly into the marketing work force or into related college majors.

The purpose of this study is to reveal how many students in one given target year missed out on valuable training offered through vocational education - training which would have better prepared them for their present occupations.

3. ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

Number of 1969 Graduates	= 306
Number Responding	= 114 or 37%
Academic Students	= 61 or 53.5%
General Students	= 35 or 30.7%
Basic Students	= 18 or 15.8%
Number Attended College or Other School	= 85 or 74.5%
Number Didn't Attend College or Other School	= 29 or 25.5%
Number of Years In Attendance:	
less than one year	= 1 or 1.2%
one year	= 9 or 10.6%
one and one half years	= 3 or 3.5%
two years	= 12 or 14.1%
two and one half years	= 1 or 1.2%
three years	= 6 or 7.1%
four years	= 42 or 49.4%
four and one half years	= 1 or 1.2%
five years	= 9 or 10.6%
six years	= 1 or 1.2%
now in graduate school	= 10 or 11.8%
now in medical school	= 1 or 1.2%
now in law school	= 3 or 3.5%
now on fellowship	= 1 or 1.2%

DEGREES RECEIVED:

Number receiving BS degrees	= 29 or 34.1%
Number receiving BA degrees	= 12 or 14.1%
Number receiving other degrees	= 3 or 3.5%
Number receiving M.Ed degrees	= 2 or 2.4%
Number receiving MS degrees	= 1 or 1.2%
Number receiving M.Ba degrees	= 1 or 1.2%
Number receiving LPN	= 3 or 3.5%
Number receiving Associate degrees	= 4 or 4.7%
Number receiving NO DEGREES	= 30 or 35.3%

MAJORS:

	Education	= 15	or 17.6%
	No Major	= 12	or 14.1%
	Social Sciences	= 7	or 8.2%
*	Business	= 6	or 7.1%
	History	= 6	or 7.1%
	English	= 5	or 5.9%
	Engineering	= 5	or 5.9%
	Science	= 5	or 5.9%
*	Computer Programming	= 4	or 4.7%
	Law	= 3	or 3.5%
*	Nursing	= 3	or 3.5%
*	Secretarial	= 2	or 2.4%
	Pre-Medical	= 1	or 1.2%
	Music	= 1	or 1.2%
	Surveying	= 1	or 1.2%
	Forestry	= 1	or 1.2%
	French	= 1	or 1.2%
	Math	= 1	or 1.2%
	Electronics	= 1	or 1.2%
	Animal Science	= 1	or 1.2%
	Economics	= 1	or 1.2%
	Journalism	= 1	or 1.2%

* Majors covered by vocational programs at Albemarle High School in 1969

NUMBER OF STUDENTS FINISHING COLLEGE OR OTHER SCHOOLS:

Number of Academic Students Attending College or Other School	= 58	or 68.2%
Number of Academic Students Finishing College or Other School	= 42	or 72.4%
Number of General Students Attending College or Other School	= 26	or 30.6%
Number of General Students Finishing College or Other School	= 13	or 50.0%
Number of Basic Students Attending College or Other School	= 1	or 1.2%
Number of Basic Students Finishing College or Other School	= 0	or 0.0%

TOTAL NUMBER OF 1969 GRADUATES FINISHING COLLEGE OR OTHER SCHOOL = 55 or 64.7%

BREAKDOWN BY ABILITY LEVEL:

Academic Students:

With Academic Majors In College	=	53	or 91.4%
With Academic Majors In College Now Working in Vocational Field	=	11	or 23.9%
With Academic Majors In College Now Working in Vocational Field Without High School Vocational Training	=	11	or 100%
With Non-Academic Majors in College	=	5	or 8.6%
With Non-Academic Majors Now Working in Vocational Field	=	5	or 8.6%
With Non-Academic Majors Now Working in Vocational Field Without High School Vocational Training	=	5	or 100%
No College	=	3	or 4.9%
No College Now Working in Vocational Field	=	2	or 66.7%
No College Now Working in Vocational Field Without High School Vocational Training	=	2	or 100%

General Students :

Attended College With No Vocational Training in High School	=	11	or 42.3%
Attended College Now Working in Vocational Field	=	20	or 76.9%
Attended College With Vocational Training in High School	=	9	or 25.7%
Attended College With Vocational Training in High School Now Working in Vocational Field	=	9	or 100%
Attended College With Vocational Training in High School Now Working in Vocational Field - Received No Supervised Work Experience in High School or College	=	4	or 44.4%

VOCATIONAL EXPOSURE OF ALL 1969 GRADUATES:

No High School Vocational Training	=	75	or 65.8%
No High School Vocational Training Now In Vocational Area	=	29	or 38.7%
Had High School Vocational Training	=	39	or 34.2%
Had High School Vocational Training and Entered College	=	17	or 43.6%
Had High School Vocational Training and No College	=	22	or 56.4%
Had High School Vocational Training/No College/Now Working In Vocational Field	=	22	or 100%

EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF 1969 GRADUATES:

Number Now Employed = 93

* 20 or 21.5% are in Business areas

* 17 or 18.3% are in Distributive areas

13 or 14% are teaching (three of these are teaching Home Economics)

* 12 or 12.9% are in Industrial and Trade areas

7 or 7.5% are in health professions

7 or 7.5% are in the armed forces

5 or 5.4% hold professional jobs

* 4 or 4.3% are in Agriculture

8 or 8.6% are working in unknown positions

* 57% are now working in areas served by vocational programs

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of the findings of the survey, I conclude the following:

The percentage of 1969 graduates with "general education" backgrounds attending college is relatively high. However, only half finished their course of study.
(Earlier, I hypothesized that the percentage attending college would be low.)

The percentage of 1969 graduates with "general education" backgrounds entering the job market is high.
(I had assumed that it would be high.)

The percentage of 1969 graduates remaining in the vocational area for which they trained is high
(I hypothesized that it would be high)

The percentage of 1969 graduates trained in the vocational programs attending college is low.
(I had assumed that it would be low.)

The percentage of 1969 "academic students" entering college with majors in academic subjects is high.
(I thought it would be low.)

The percentage of general students attending college but quitting before they received their degree is high.

The percentage of general students in vocational jobs after college attendance is high.

The percentage of all graduates now in the work force in vocational jobs is high.

The percentage of graduates receiving related high school training for their present job is low.

Based on the above conclusions, I make the following recommendations:

Vocational programs should concentrate on guidance and recruitment of general education students. With more of these students in vocational programs, the drop-out rate on the college level should decrease. The student will have better preparation on the high school level for direct entry into the job market and/or will have a clearer understanding of his own career goals, whether it is college or work.

Vocational programs should not concentrate on the recruitment of academic students but should not discourage such students from enrolling in the program. Academic students desiring to enter the management areas should be encouraged to enroll, however.

5. SUPPLEMENTAL AND APPENDIX MATERIAL

ALBEMARLE HIGH SCHOOL
Route 5
Hydraulic Road
Charlottesville, Virginia

Dear 1969 Graduate;

We are doing a research project in cooperation with the State Department of Education and are quite anxious to find out what you have been doing since you graduated from Albemarle High School.

Won't you please take a few minutes to complete this brief questionnaire and mail it in the pre-stamped return envelope today??

We look forward to hearing from you soon!!

Thank you.

* * * *

1. Did you attend college, business school or vocational school after graduating from Albemarle High School?

YES_____ NO_____

a. Number of Years (circle one) Please go on to #2

1 2 3 4

b. School(s) Attended

_____

c. Degree Received_____

d. Major Field_____

2. Where are you now employed?_____

_____

(name and address of firm)

3. Are you employed full-time? YES NO

4. What is your position?_____

5. What is the nature of your work?_____

_____

6. Did you have a job in high school? YES NO

Where?_____

What was the nature of your work?_____

ABSTRACT

Vocational educators are constantly concerned with the welfare of our students and others who could benefit from our programs. Each year we make new plans for the year to come, hoping that our programs will meet the needs of more and more students. In our planning and caring, we also include business and industry because we like to feel that they need us as much as the students do. In our recruiting, we try to secure as many "good" students as possible - students with the characteristics that business demands. At the same time, we are often talked into taking certain students who "really need the program" but seldomly succeed in the regular program. All too often, the school system does not offer special vocational programs for these students so they wind up in our regular programs. When placement time rolls around business does not understand what happened to "the caliber" of the students. The teacher-coordinator is caught in the middle of understanding the point of view of business, guidance, the student and trying to maintain a good reputation in the community.

The purpose of this project was to gather data from one high school graduating class regarding their present job status, college attendance and high school training. This information was to be compared with their ability level while in high school to see if the vocational programs met the needs of the students of that particular year.

According to the data found, the vocational programs of that year did meet the needs of those students enrolled in the programs as very few have left the field in which they were trained. But, too many non-vocational students are now working in vocational areas which indicates that we may not have trained enough students. And this is of primary concern to us. It is unrealistic to believe that we can train all students who will eventually enter vocational fields but it is a realistic goal to reach more than we are now - or did during the target year of 1969.

Specifically, the findings of the report reveal that of this particular graduating class 85 or 74.5% enrolled in a college or other school of higher learning, with 64.7% actually finishing their course of study. The report revealed that 72.4% of the "academic" level students graduated, 50% of the "general" level finished and 0% of the "basic" students finished. Only fifteen students out of eighty-five majored in courses covered by vocational programs. Of the ninety-three graduates now working, fifty-three are working in areas served by vocational programs. 38.7% of the graduates responding to the survey are now working in a vocational area and received no high school vocational training.

Just these figures alone indicate that we need to reach more students. The figures also indicate that it is the "general" level student who will benefit most from our regular programs. It is this level student whose drop-out rate in college was high and with a good, solid background in vocational education and on-the-job training this type of student should have a better understanding of his own career goals. To concentrate on recruiting effectively motivated "general" students would strengthen our program from both school and business viewpoints.